

## Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07

LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 /072 W  
----- 039361

R 161433Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7873

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4805

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, PO

SUBJ: LEGISLATION PLANNED TO DEMOCRATIZE LABOR UNIONS

REF: LISBON A-173 JULY 2, 1976

1. MINISTRY OF LABOR IS REPORTEDLY PREPARING LEGISLATION  
REQUIRING THAT LABOR UNION ELECTIONS HAVE THE PARTICIPATION  
OF AT LEAST 50 PERCENT OF THE MEMBERS. ELECTIONS HAVING LESSER  
PERTICIPATIONS WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED VALID AND WOULD HAVE  
TO BE REPEATED.

2. COMMENT: A MAJOR FACTOR IN THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S DOMINATION  
OF THE PORTUGUESE LABOR MOVEMENT HAS BEEN ITS ABILITY TO  
CAPTURE CONTROL OF UNIONS' ORGANIZATIONAL MACHINERY, FREQ-  
UENTLY THROUGH ELECTRIONS IN WHICH ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF  
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THE UNION MEMBERS PARTICIPATE. THE MILITANTLY COMMUNIST LEADER-  
SHIP OF THE METALLURGICAL FEDERATION WAS ELECTED WITH LESS

THAN 10 PERCENT OF THE MEMBERS VOTING, WHILE THE LISBON CIVIL CONSTRUCTION WORKERS' ELECTION HAD LESS THAN 5 PERCENT PARTICIPATION. THE COMMUNISTS HAVE COMMONLY ADOPTED TACTICS DESIGNED TO LIMIT MEMBERS PARTICIPATION BY MAKING VOTING DIFFICULT OR INCONVENIENT. SOCIALIST LABOR LEADERS BELIEVE THAT MEASURE REQUIRING MORE WIDESPREAD PARTICIPATION WILL INEVITABLY DO MUCH TO STRENGTHEN THEIR POSITION IN LABOR.

3. ALTHOUGH THE ORIGIN OF THE PROPOSED MEASURE IS NOT KNOWN, IT MAY BE SIGNIFICANT THAT IT FOLLOWS BY TWO WEEKS A SIMILAR SUGGESTION THE EMBASSY MADE TO MINISTER OF LABOR TOMAS ROSA (REFAIR).  
CARLUCCI

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, LABOR UNIONS, ELECTIONS, LEGISLATIVE BILLS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976LISBON04805  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** X4  
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**Film Number:** D760275-0938  
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